

## [Andrew Wheeler]

Form A

Circumstances of Interview No. 2 Vermont 1938-9

Vermont

C. F. Derven

Poultney

August 29, 1938

Subject — Folklore

1. Interview on August 25, 1938 and August 29, 1938. The first interview resulted in a promise to tell the interviewer any material recalled. First interview at 10;30 a. m. Second at 4 p.m.
2. First at home of informant. Second on Main Street.
3. Mr. Andrew Wheeler, Main Street, Poultney, Vt. 4 & 5 None
6. Mr. Wheeler lives in one section of a house owned by a shoemaker, named Peter Bialco. The house also contains the shoemaker's shop. It is on lower Main Street; that is, the west end, and faces the Star Theatre. It is on the south side of the street, and nextdoor to a hardware store. The house is rambling; and the architecture of it is a mixture. A one and a half story building, painted white with bright green trim, it is dwarfed by surrounding houses. From the long porch one can see up and down Main Street, and

## Library of Congress

notice most events occuring occurring on the thoroughfare. There is a small lawn and cement sidewalks lead across it to the porch and shop. The interview was on the porch.

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Form B Personal History of Informant Vermont C. F. Derven

Poultney

August 29, 1938

Subject ——— Mr. Andrew Wheeler, Main Street, Poultney, Vt.

1. Ancestry — English, and part Irish
2. Born in Whitehall, N. Y. on March 2, 1865.
3. He is married. His wife lives. Has three boys living.
4. Lived in Whitehall for 30 yrs. Has lived in Poultney for 43 years.
5. Elementary School education.
6. Has been an experienced carpenter and wood-worker. Employed by Ripley Lumber Company in Poultney for years. Retired.
7. He was a member of the Poultney Band. Organised, with his son, Howard's, assistance the well-known Poultney Graded School Band. Played bass drums.
8. Masonic Order
9. Mr. Wheeler is a quiet, reflective sort of man now in his later years. One can see him almost any day sitting on the porch of his residence, puffing a pipe. He likes children, and pays a good deal of attention to them. He once had red hair, but now he wears a hat all the time, and that hair which is visible is not too red. He wears gold rimmed glasses. His customary dress is a blue suit and a gray hat. One could not call him a large man. He is of medium height and weight. He has a keen sense of humor, and when roused is able to tell a good joke. He is somewhat temperamental, and will defend a just cause with fiery words.

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He worked very hard to establish a boys' and girls' band in Poultney, and in speaking of the band is justly proud of it.

Form C — Text of Interview No. 2

Vermont

C. F. Derven

Poultney

August 29, 1938

Folklore

Cures and Remedies

“Place a cold key at the back of the neck to stop nose-bleeds.”

Death and Burial Lore

In past times they used to put a wet cloth soaked in poison on the face of a corpse, and sit up nights to guard it. They were afraid that a cat might eat the corpse. People were told not to kiss the corpse because of the poison. When ready for burial, the face was washed free of the poison. (The informant has sat many a night, he claims, guarding corpses in that manner.)

If rain fell on the open grave of one being buried, it was held that another of the same family would die within a year.